

**Amendments to the Claims**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

**Listing of Claims:**

1. (Canceled)
2. (Canceled)
3. (Canceled)
4. (Canceled)
5. (Canceled)
6. (Canceled)
7. (Canceled)
8. (Canceled)
9. (Canceled)
10. (Canceled)
11. (Canceled)
12. (Canceled)
13. (Canceled)
14. (Canceled)
15. (New) A method of making a carboxylic polymer, said method comprising:
  - a). forming a reaction medium comprising water and at least one liquid elastomer having at least one dicarboxylic acid anhydride group per molecule, said reaction medium containing about zero weight percent volatile organic compounds; and
  - b). heating said reaction medium for a time and under conditions sufficient to hydrolyze said at least one dicarboxylic acid anhydride group.
16. (New) The method of claim 15, wherein said reaction medium additionally comprises at least one catalyst.

17. (New) The method of claim 15, wherein said reaction medium additionally comprises at least one catalyst selected from the group consisting of tertiary amines, toluenesulfonic acid, and amine salts of p-toluenesulfonic acid.
18. (New) The method of claim 15, wherein said liquid elastomer is an adduct of an organic acid anhydride and an unsaturated liquid polymer.
19. (New) The method of claim 15, wherein said liquid elastomer is an adduct of maleic anhydride and an unsaturated liquid polymer.
20. (New) The method of claim 15, wherein said liquid elastomer is an adduct of an organic acid anhydride and an unsaturated liquid polymer which is a polymer or copolymer of at least one diene selected from the group consisting of butadiene, isoprene and chloroprene.
21. (New) The method of claim 15, wherein said liquid elastomer has at least two dicarboxylic acid anhydride groups per molecule.
22. (New) The method of claim 15, wherein said heating in step b) is carried out at a temperature between about 60 degrees C and about 110 degrees C.
23. (New) The method of claim 15, wherein said liquid elastomer is a copolymer of at least one unsaturated organic acid anhydride and at least one diene.
24. (New) A method of making a cured adhesive elastomeric composition, said method comprising:
  - a). compounding the carboxylic polymer obtained in accordance with claim 15 with at least one curing agent to obtain a curable adhesive elastomeric composition; and
  - b). heating said curable adhesive elastomeric composition to form said cured adhesive elastomeric composition.
25. (New) The method of claim 24, wherein said carboxylic polymer is additionally compounded in step a) with at least one elastomer.
26. (New) The method of claim 24, wherein said carboxylic polymer comprises from about 1 to about 25 weight percent of said curable adhesive elastomeric composition.
27. (New) The method of claim 24, wherein said carboxylic polymer is additionally compounded in step a) with at least one elastomer selected from the group

consisting of styrene-butadiene rubber, acrylonitrile-butadiene rubber, hydrogenated acrylonitrile-butadiene rubber, polychloroprene rubber, natural rubber, polyisoprene rubber, polybutadiene rubber, isoprene-isobutylene rubber, halogenated isoprene-isobutylene rubber, fluorocarbon rubber, polyethylene, ethylene-propylene-diene rubber, ethylene-vinyl acetate rubber, ethylene-alkyl acrylate copolymers, and ethylene-propylene rubber.

28. (New) The method of claim 24, wherein the curable adhesive elastomeric composition is contacted with a substrate prior to step b).